

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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5 **TITLE: SAFE PATH NIGHT LIGHT**

SPECIFICATION

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

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This application claims priority based on United States Provisional
Application Serial No. 60/416,947, filed October 8, 2002.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention is a system for assisting persons to walk in a darkened
room to avoid accidents. The system incorporates a motion detector (with or without
time delay to keep lights ON) and a string of lights, for example, those sold under the
mark LIGHT ROPE®. The lights are laid out along a path in the home.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

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The prior art discloses various structures for illuminating a person's pathway.
Woodman, 934,122 discloses wooden steps with lights actuated by a person
stepping on each landing.

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Donahue, 4,425,601 is similar to Woodman in using pressure sensitive switches
on stairs to illuminate lights on each landing.

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Kirk, 4,544,993, shows an illuminating mat to be placed on the floor. The lights
go ON by pressure sensitive switches.

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Johnson, 5,019,950, is similar in concept but different in structure from the
invention. Johnson actuates a timed night-light from a pressure sensitive switch mat.

Ness, 5,763,872, shows motion detectors incorporated in individual path lights.

Nishihira et al, 6,166,640 disclose an electronic lighting control in a room

5 occupancy sensor system.

Shaefer, 6,390,647 teaches an indoor/outdoor night light which can be turned on by motion detection, ambient light detection or manually.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention assists persons to walk in darkened rooms thereby avoiding accidents. A motion detector which may incorporate a delay to maintain illumination for a predetermined time is connected to a string of small lights preferably having bulbs set into a plastic strip such as sold under the trademark LIGHT ROPE®. The motion detector turns on the lights to illuminate a path after sensing motion of a person. This eliminates the need to illuminate the entire room and also eliminates the need for any action by the user to activate the illumination.

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By way of example, a strip of lights may be fastened along the baseboard of a room to provide lighting for a person to safely navigate from bed to bath

A principal object and advantage of this invention is the provision of a night light system, which illuminates a predetermined path.

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Another object and advantage of this invention is the provision of a night light system, which may be activated by a motion detector.

A still further object and advantage of the invention is the provision of a night light system, which is illuminated for a predetermined time.

Another object and advantage of this invention is the provision of a night light system, which provides illumination without the need for any actions by a person other than moving within the range of a motion detector.

The foregoing, as well as further objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from a review of the following detailed description of my invention, reference being made to the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

THE FIGURE is a perspective view of the system of this invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

THE FIGURE is a perspective view of the system of this invention. A person is shown leaving bed 20. A motion detector 24 detects that motion. The detector 24 serves to turn ON and OFF a LIGHT ROPE® 28. The motion detector 24 is directly plugged in to wall plug 26. The LIGHT ROPE® 28 may be located along a wall or on the floor to illuminate and create a path.

It will be understood that an additional motion detector may be used to activate the lights. This additional motion detector may be attached to the other end of the light string so that both ends of the string can illuminate it. Further, the components used may be those suitable for use indoors or outdoors. Similarly, light strings other than the LIGHT ROPE® may be employed and may be actuated by remote sensors.

Further modifications to the apparatus of the invention may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention; accordingly, what is sought to be protected is set forth in the appended claims.